

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2666

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ACCEPTS ELECTION OUTCOME

REFS: (A) LISBON 2416; (B) LISBON 2383

1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED FOLLOWING

STATEMENT APRIL 29 CONCERNING ELECTION OUTCOME:

"THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS EXAMINED THE MANNER IN WHICH LAST FRIDAY'S ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE AND STRESSES THE CIVIC SPIRIT AND DIGNITY WITH WHICH THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ACTED. IN EFFECT, THE EXTRAORDINARY TURNOUT AT THE POLLS, THE CALM AND SERENITY WITH WHICH VOTING TOOK PLACE, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY DEMONSTRATED FOR THE AFM'S OPTION OF SOCIALISM IN LIBERTY AND PLURALISM, ALL CONFIRMED THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE IS AN ADULT PEOPLE WHICH KNOWS WHAT THE EXERCISE OF DEMOCRACY IS ALL ABOUT AND VOTED FOR IT.

"THE REACTIONS ARRIVING FROM ABROAD ALSO DEMONSTRATE THE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION PRODUCED EVERYWHERE BY THE ELECTIONS
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-- AND HOW THEY HAVE SERVED TO DISARM THE CAMPAIGN OF

DENIGRATION AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION NOW IN COURSE.

"IN CONGRATULATING THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ELECTORAL OPERATIONS FOR THEIR SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE AND THEIR CIVIC DEVOTION."

2. COMMENT: THE CABINET STATEMENT IS A SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR OF GOP ATTITUDE. IT WAS ISSUED BY THE "RESTRICTED" CABINET COMPOSED OF PRIME MINISTER, FOUR MINISTERS-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO (REPRESENTING FOUR PARTIES IN COALITION), AND THREE OF REGULAR CABINET'S MILITARY MINISTERS. REGARDLESS OF DOUBTS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS HARBORED BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF AFM AT ELECTION RESULTS, THE CABINET HAS COME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF ACCEPTANCE.

3. STATEMENT'S REFERENCE TO SOCIALIST OPTION "IN LIBERTY AND PLURALISM" IS AN ECHO OF SOCIALIST PARTY'S CAMPAIGN SLOGAN. BECAUSE OF THIS, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' STATEMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY MET WITH OPPOSITION FROM MINISTERS-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO CUNHAL (PCP) AND PEREIRA DA MOURA (FELLOW-TRAVELING MDP/CDE). REFLECTING THIS, COMMUNIST-LINING DAILY O SEculo BURIED STATEMENT IN HANDFUL OF PARAGRAPHS FOLLOWING LONG LISTING OF OTHER ROUTINE DECISIONS TAKEN AT CABINET SESSION. CARLUCCI

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